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CONTROL ID: 1472969

TITLE: International Field School on Permafrost, Polar Urals, 2012

ABSTRACT BODY: The international field school on permafrost was held in the Polar Urals region from June, 30 to July 9, 2012 right after the Tenth International Conference on Permafrost which was held in Salekhard, Russia. The travel and accommodation support generously provided by government of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region allowed participation of 150 permafrost young research scientists, out of which 35 students from seven countries participated in the field school. The field school was organized under umbrella of International Permafrost Association and Permafrost Young Research Network. The students represented diverse educational backgrounds including hydrologists, engineers, geologists, soil scientists, geocryologists, glaciologists and geomorphologists. The base school camp was located near the Harp settlement in the vicinity of Polar Urals foothills. This unique location presented an opportunity to study a diversity of cryogenic processes and permafrost conditions characteristic for mountain and plain regions as well as transition between glacial and periglacial environments. A series of excursions was organized according to the following topics: structural geology of the Polar Urals and West Siberian Plain (Chromite mine “Centralnaya” and Core Storage in Labitnangy city); quaternary geomorphology (investigation of moraine complexes and glacial conditions of Ronamantikov and Topographov glaciers); principles of construction and maintains of structures built on permafrost (Labitnangy city and Obskaya-Bovanenkovo Railroad); methods of temperature and active-layer monitoring in tundra and forest-tundra; cryosols and soil formation in diverse landscape condition; periglacial geomorphology; types of ground ice, etc. Every evening students and professors gave a series of presentations on climate, vegetation, hydrology, soil conditions, permafrost and cryogenic processes of the region as well as on history, economic development, endogenous population of the Siberia and the Russian Arctic in general. Series of discussions were focused on methodological aspects of permafrost research, data mining techniques, international projects, job opportunities etc. The experience gained by students during the field school, new networking opportunities and good spirit of polar research cannot be adequately replaced by any classroom demonstrations. That is why it is critically important to conduct such filed schools in the future. We are grateful to administration of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous region for providing financial support and to Yamal Tour for the organization and logistics in the field.

CURRENT SECTION/FOCUS GROUP: Global Environmental Change

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